

14-1470

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to Their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and wishes to inform the Chiefs of Mission that the Department has decided, for public safety reasons and after conducting extensive research on the subject, to revise its policy concerning the testing requirements for obtaining a Department of State (DOS) driver's license with a "motorcycle endorsement" that permits the licensee to operate a motorcycle in the United States.

The Department's current policy allows foreign mission members and their eligible dependents who hold a valid foreign license with a motorcycle endorsement permitting operation of a motorcycle with an engine size of 250 cubic centimeters or above, to add a motorcycle endorsement to their Department-issued driver's license with no additional testing. For foreign mission members and their eligible dependents who *do not* hold a valid foreign driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement permitting operation of a motorcycle with an engine size of 250 cubic centimeters or above, and who wish to obtain a motorcycle endorsement on their Department-issued driver's license, current Office of Foreign

Missions (OFM) policy requires that they meet the requirements for novice motorcycle operators as imposed in the U.S. state in which they live.

To ensure that motorcycle operators possess the necessary motorcycle safety skills, the Department has concluded that it is necessary, for reasons of public and rider safety, to require motorcycle training/testing in instances where the applicant's motorcycle endorsement was issued under foreign standards less stringent than standards applied by states in the United States, as determined by OFM. OFM will notify Chiefs of Missions separately in writing if it makes such a determination.

The Department wishes to take this opportunity to provide the following details on the Department's new policy for motorcycle endorsement issuance:

1. OFM will not require any additional testing if an applicant holds a valid foreign driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement permitting operation of a motorcycle with an engine size of 125 cubic centimeters or above, and OFM has found that the issuing country's motorcycle endorsement testing and preparation requirements are equivalent to U.S. standards.
2. If the applicant does not meet the criteria set out in paragraph 1 above, he/she will now be required to complete the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) "BasicRider" course which is offered in 48 states or the approved course in the U.S. state in which the applicant lives, all of which meet or

exceed the standards established by MSF. To determine an applicant's nearest training provider and course availability, missions are requested to visit the MSF website at <http://www.msf-usa.org/students.aspx>. Individuals who live in the District of Columbia may complete the MSF "BasicRider" course in Virginia or Maryland. Individuals who live in Idaho or Oregon, where an MSF "BasicRider" course is not offered, must complete the equivalent training course in the state in which they live. Foreign mission members who live in Idaho must complete the STAR Basic I Course (<http://idahostar.org/courses/basic1>) and those who live in Oregon must complete the TEAM OREGON Basic Rider Training (BRT) course (<http://team-oregon.org/training/basicridertraining/>). Please note the cost of these courses varies by jurisdiction.

The Chiefs of Missions are informed that foreign mission members and their eligible dependents are only required to obtain an OFM-issued driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement for the operation of a moped, scooter, or motorcycle with an engine size of 49 cubic centimeters and above. For the operation of the abovementioned vehicles with an engine size below 49 cubic centimeters, a regular class C driver's license is sufficient.

The Chiefs of Missions are requested to communicate this important information to all eligible mission personnel and their family members throughout

the United States. Missions may direct any questions in this regard to OFM at OFMDMVDriverServices@state.gov or 202-895-3682. The Department appreciates the missions' continuing cooperation with the Department's motor vehicle program.

Department of State,

Washington, September 5, 2014.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'CB' followed by a stylized flourish.